

Key Figure in JFK Mystery a

Since the inception of this series on February 25, a number of previously unknown facts relating to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy have surfaced. As these facts emerge, they form the glue that connects together previous revelations into a complete picture—a picture of conspiracy.

We (and you) have Watergate burglar E. Howard Hunt to thank for this special SPOTLIGHT series, because ironically it was Hunt's libel suit against *The SPOTLIGHT* and *Liberty Lobby* that was the impetus for this newspaper to take yet another look at the murder of JFK.

But as we have delved deeper into the mystery of the assassination, Hunt has faded from view. With this in mind, we digress for the moment to the story of E. Howard Hunt—Watergate burglar, convicted perjurer, CIA agent and author.

THIRTEENTH IN A SERIES
EXCLUSIVE TO THE SPOTLIGHT

By William Carmichael

E. Howard Hunt's adult life is laced with lies (sometimes called fiction, sometimes called propaganda; sometimes called disinformation and sometimes called perjury). Perjury is a felony, and Hunt went to prison for lying (under oath) about his role in Watergate.



Convicted Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt looks disgruntled as he leaves U.S. district court in Miami, Florida with his attorney's secretary Barbara Henler after a jury found *The SPOTLIGHT* and *Liberty Lobby* innocent of libel charges leveled by Hunt.

From 1949 until 1970, Hunt was an active CIA agent. During that time, others have testified under oath, he was a key figure in "Operation 40," the CIA-run assassination project directed

principally (but not exclusively) at Fidel Castro. Marita Lorenz, a girlfriend of Castro and later a CIA operative, said, under oath: "I was trained to kill." Two of the people involved in that

training were Frank Sturgis (ne Fiorini, another Watergate burglar) and E. Howard Hunt.

Hunt's testimony in a deposition, therefore, becomes more interesting. Hunt, who apparently likes to sue people (given the history of legal actions he has instituted since his "rehabilitation"), filed an action against the "Third Press" and Joseph Okpaku Publishing Company, Inc. of New York, also for libel.

Hunt was questioned by attorney Mark J. Friedman for Okpaku. (Questions are in dark type; answers in light type.)

Did you know any assassination experts when you were working with the CIA?

Not to my knowledge.

Do you remember ever meeting with Colonel Pash?

Col. Boris Pash. Yes.

Have you ever discussed the subject of an assassination with Mr. Pash?

Not assassination *qua* assassination, but the liquidation, removal of . . .

In other depositions, relating to the same case, Hunt seems confused about whether or not he was in Mexico and when. The questions are in bold type (not sequential); answers in light type.

I am asking you whether you have been in Mexico City in the month of September or October or November of 1963?

No, I've never been there.

What position did you hold when you first joined the CIA?

My first foreign assignment was as chief of station in Mexico City.

In Mexico City?

Yes.

What year was that?

That was 1950, I believe, to '53.

Were you ever stationed in Mexico City?

I was, from 1951 until 1953, when it merged and I left in 1954.

You have never been to the city since then?

Certainly in connection with the Bay of Pigs, yes.

Could you put the date as best you can?

I traveled down there in 1960 . . . Then I went back to Mexico occasionally, up until about February of 1961.

CIA agents lie about what they do. They swear an oath not to talk about their activities. To tell the truth would compromise their positions. For example, a CIA spy in the Soviet Union, if asked by the KGB what he does, would obviously not answer that he was a CIA spy. He has a cover story; it is a lie. CIA agents are professional liars. If they weren't they wouldn't live long.

Lying was what E. Howard Hunt did for a living. In sworn testimony he said that between 1961 and 1965 or '66, he was chief of the Covert Actions Staff of the Domestic Operations Division of the CIA. In his own words, "We ran a propaganda operation."

Readers of *THE SPOTLIGHT* will recall that E. Howard Hunt was identified as the man who contacted the members of the two-car caravan in Dallas, after it

Former CIA Spies Stick Together



William F. Buckley Jr. (right) is pictured with his friend Henry Kissinger. Another of Buckley's friends is E. Howard Hunt.

Politics, it is said, makes strange bedfellows. So does spying. When E. Howard Hunt was on trial for his part in the Watergate conspiracy, one of the people who stood by him was an old friend: William F. Buckley Jr., the erudite publisher and television host.

Buckley, in fact, was involved in helping to raise money for Hunt's defense. At the time, it seemed strange to some people that Hunt and Buckley would be connected in any way.

The millionaire publisher of "National Review," however, testified under oath about his friendship with the Watergater.

Due to litigation between Buckley and *Liberty Lobby*, the former was deposed by the latter. During that testimony, Buckley said that he had been a covert member of the CIA for approximately one year: from 1951 to 1952. During that time, his boss was E. Howard Hunt.

Buckley refuses to discuss his activities while a member of the CIA, citing an oath he took on the occasion of his association. He did say, however, that he remains friendly with Hunt, receiving "three or four notes a week" from the convicted felon.

Specialist in Disinformation

arrived from Miami (SPOTLIGHT, Feb. 25). He was the man with the money: the paymaster. But in giving a deposition, when asked if he had ever been in Dallas, he answered: "No; unless I drove through it, I haven't been."

Journalist Alan Stang once said: "E. Howard Hunt is probably the only American over 30 who doesn't remember where he was and what he was doing on November 22, 1963."

Kennedy assassination buffs will recall that the Okpaku suit revolved around a charge that Hunt was in Dallas.

Two "tramp" photos with an acetate overlay, in a book published by Okpaku, were purported to prove that two "tramps" arrested in Dallas following JFK's murder were actually E. Howard Hunt and Frank Sturgis.

In giving a deposition in relation to his suit against Okpaku, Hunt said he was sure of his whereabouts when Kennedy was shot. He said he was in Washington and that his children could testify to that fact. The Rockefeller Commission report states: "A son who was nine years old at the time could not recall whether his parents were present or absent that day."

Hunt, however, didn't remember whether or not he was on sick leave or whether or not he might have visited his office at CIA headquarters in Virginia that day.

Hunt's most consistent story on his whereabouts is that he had been shopping at a Chinese grocery store in Washington and was gone from his home on that errand for about two hours. He said his children could testify to this, but they have never been called to the stand in any of Hunt's libel cases.

Hunt was, in fact, a disinformation specialist. When asked, under oath, if he had forged cable traffic linking JFK with the assassination of Ngo Dinh Diem, the president of South Vietnam,

Hunt answered: "I did."

When asked why he would do such a thing, he said, "... because [Charles Colson asked me to.]"

On January 10, 1973, Hunt pleaded guilty to three counts of conspiracy, burglary and illegal wiretapping. (Originally, he pleaded guilty to six counts; the court reduced it to three.)

Hunt's credibility can be evaluated from testimony in the case of "U.S. vs John N. Mitchell *et al.*" Hunt was asked how many times he lied under oath, even after being granted immunity, in relation to Watergate. He said, "Twelve."

Being questioned by his own attorney, Hunt said that when he testified before a grand jury about Watergate, he "... chose to be selectively untruthful."

Asked if he lied to the grand jury under oath, he answered: "Yes, sir."

It was at this time that Hunt testified that he had decided to tell the truth. That was in November of 1974. So Hunt was claiming that, from that day forward, he told the truth.

But we have already seen that Hunt, in fact, doesn't always tell the truth. During the litigation between Hunt and Liberty Lobby and The SPOTLIGHT, Hunt testified that he had no interest in a conspiracy and was satisfied with the conclusions of the Warren Commission.

Hunt has denied and continues to deny that he knew Frank Sturgis or Marita Lorenz. While he admits that he was known as "Eduardo," and several other spies have identified Eduardo as E. Howard Hunt, the paymaster for the previously mentioned Operation 40, he continues to deny that he was involved in any way.

For a man not interested in a conspiracy, Hunt continues to author a lot of books with that theme. He has never denied writing numerous spy novels throughout his career, before and after his association with the CIA, before and



after his jailing for his Watergate connection.

How can a man not interested in conspiracy on a national and international level continue to write successful novels about conspiracies? The jury in the case against The SPOTLIGHT and Liberty Lobby chose to disbelieve Hunt.

What remains a mystery is why Hunt continued his suit against The SPOTLIGHT and Liberty Lobby while, at the same time, he dropped a \$2.5-million suit against Okpaku (the publisher) and the authors of "Coup d'Etat in America: The CIA and the Assassination of John F. Kennedy." It was this book that contained the aforementioned acetate overlay and alleged that E. Howard Hunt was one of the "tramps" arrested in Dallas.

This was after Hunt had "decided to tell the truth."

He said, at the time, through his attorney, that he had decided to drop the case because he had already won \$650,000 from Liberty Lobby. In fact, although a judgment had been rendered

in Hunt's favor, Liberty Lobby and The SPOTLIGHT were appealing. Hunt, of course, was aware of that appeal.

He had received no money from Liberty Lobby or The SPOTLIGHT and never did. He eventually lost in the retrial, as detailed in previous issues of this newspaper (Feb. 18 and subsequently).

During that second trial, Mark Lane, attorney for Liberty Lobby and The SPOTLIGHT, during his examination of Hunt, brought out numerous instances of lying on the part of the Water-gater.

Hunt, for all of his adult life, has been involved in conspiracies. He has admitted to some, denied others. He was jailed for his connection to the Watergate conspiracy. He continues to be a mystery man, and a successful lecturer and writer of fiction.

Whether or not he is telling the truth on any particular occasion or any particular subject is, however, as recently proved, a matter which must be left to a jury.

Oswald Wrote Note to 'Mr. Hunt'

During the many investigations of the murder of JFK, suspicion was at one time directed toward the late H.L. Hunt, the Texas oil billionaire and father of Herbert and Nelson Bunker Hunt. The cause of the suspi-

cion was a handwritten note from Lee Harvey Oswald to "Mr. Hunt."

Dated November 8, 1963, the note reads:

"Dear Mr. Hunt, I would like information concerning my position. I am

asking only for information. I am suggesting that we discuss the matter fully before any steps are taken by me or anyone else."

After a "Thank you," it is signed "Lee Harvey Oswald."

In 1963, the name of E. Howard Hunt was unknown outside of "spook" circles. H.L. Hunt was known to support patriotic causes, sometimes labeled "right wing" by the liberal-leftist Establishment media.

One of the conspiracy theories that circulated immediately following JFK's murder was that it was the work of "right-wing nuts." With the "Dear Mr. Hunt" note in Oswald's hand, a connection was made to the Texas billionaire.

The book "Coup d'Etat in America: The CIA and the Assassination of John F. Kennedy," alleges that the "Mr. Hunt" in Oswald's note was not H.L. Hunt the Texan, but E. Howard Hunt the CIA spy.

Hunt (the spy) sued the publisher and authors. But suddenly, only one day before the case was to go to trial, he dropped the suit. He had been suing for \$2.5 million (see accompanying story).

The possibility that the "Mr. Hunt" of Oswald's note was Watergater E. Howard Hunt was never established in a court of law; neither has it been refuted.



Lee Harvey Oswald is murdered by Jack Ruby (back to camera) in Dallas.